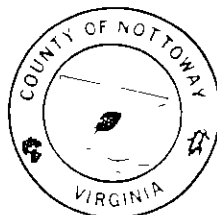


DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL
NOTTOWAY COUNTY
LIBRARY



414 Tyler Street
Crewe, VA 23930
(434) 645-9310
September 2, 2003

RECEIVED & INSPECTED

SEP 08 2003

FCC - MAILROOM

Letter of Appeal
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th St SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE CC Docket Nos 96-45 and 97-21

To Whom It May Concern

Much time was spent by the Blackstone Library Director trying to understand the rules and regulations of Schools and Libraries Division. Yet the real impediment to Blackstone's filing of its appeal within 60 days of the date that the Funding Commitment Decision Letter was issued is connected to miscommunication between the Blackstone Library Director and the State Library Consultants with whom she had to discuss Blackstone's failure to be funded. After 4 weeks of discussion of the May 1st Funding Commitment Report, the initial consultant, unknown to the Blackstone Director, left her office for five months and referred Blackstone's problem to a consultant in the Dept. of Education. Not given the exact address, this gentleman, known for his skill in organization of appeal materials, e-mailed the essential data needed for Blackstone's appeal to an unused Blackstone address on June 12 where it lay unnoticed for 3 weeks. Since the Director's office is in Crewe, it was never discovered, until she began an intense investigation, was told of the original consultant's departure, contacted others, and finally was introduced to the legitimate substitute. The data was faxed to the director's office in Crewe, on July 14 where the letter of appeal was written and posted on July 17, 2003.

Board of Trustees


Elvie Bagley
Malinda Conley
Margaret Eppes
Marjorie Riddle
Margaret Wagner

Nancy S. Pierce, Director

Blackstone Library asks the FCC to realize the importance of the assistance from State Consultants to an applicant struggling to complete an appeal that requires knowledge of complex E-rate regulations and policies. Certainly the E-mail miscommunication represented a legitimate impediment to the timely submission of the Appeal of the Form 471 Certificate – Rejection Letter.

Blackstone asks the FCC to consider the fact that without an E-Rate discount, the local budget can no longer support Internet Access, a service that is much required by the patrons of the library.

Sincerely,


Blackstone Public Library

Nancy S. Pierce – Contact Person Nottoway Central Library

414 Tyler St

Crewe, VA 23930

Telephone 434-645-9310

FAX 434-645-8513